

THOMAS SUNDAY



Icon of Saint Thomas and the Lord

St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church

A Parish of the Self-Ruled Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese (antiochian.org) ... and ...
The Diocese of Charleston, Oakland & The Mid-Atlantic (antiochian.org/east)
(“...the Disciples were called Christians first in Antioch!” [Acts 11:26](#))



111 Alberta Avenue // Johnstown, PA 15905-3002
Website: stmaryaocc.org // E-Mail: stmaryaocc@outlook.com

Most Rev. Metropolitan SABA – Archbishop & Primate
Right Rev. Bishop THOMAS – Auxiliary Bishop
Very Rev. Fr. Donald E. Shadid, M.Div. & D.Min. – Archpriest & Pastor
Sub-Deacon Timothy (Cade) Scott, MAT
Edward Makdad, Jr. – Parish Council Chairperson

“Go to Church ... Say Your Prayers ... Don’t Forget God!” (+Fr. Tom Hopko’s Mom)

Fr. Don – Cell: 814-242-0084 – abeenad1@gmail.com – Office: 814-255-2148

+ + + **NEW SUNDAY OR ANTI-PASCHA** + + +
(SUNDAY OF THOMAS THE APOSTLE, CALLED “THE TWIN”)

Sunday, May 12, 2022

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

GERMANOS, Patriarch of Constantinople / EPIPHANIOS, Bishop of Cyprus

Happy Mother’s Day!

We welcome all of you, our Faithful and our Visitors, to St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church! It is a pleasure to have you with us as we glorify and praise the Name of our God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Please sing along with our Choir during the Liturgy.

Please note, as has been the practice of the Church since the Feast of Pentecost, that the Sacrament of Holy Communion can only be given to Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves by prayer, fasting (Wed., Fri. & the prescribed Fasts), regular Confession (at least twice per year ... 7 Yrs. old & up), who attend Liturgy regularly & on time (at least 3 times a month) ... and ... are at peace with all people.

When receiving Holy Communion, please fold your arms over your chest, open your mouth wide, tip your head back slightly, and allow the priest to place the elements in your mouth.

For our non-Orthodox brethren, we welcome you to sing and pray with us, venerate the Cross, and receive the Blessed Holy Bread at the end of the Divine Liturgy. Please join us again soon. May God Bless You Always!

HOLY OBLATION: Offered by *The Faithful of our St. Mary Parish Family* for the health of the *Antiochian Village Staff*, who so faithfully dedicate themselves to the ministries of the Camp & the Conference Center.

PASCHAL CANDLES: Offered in beloved memory of: **(1)** *Anthony Berrich, Jr.* by Tony & Marianne Spada and Family ... **and ... (2)** *Jesse George* by his mother, Christine Asfar.

PROSKAMEDIA CANDLE: : Offered for the health of *Judy, John, Fey, Richard, Zoe & Fr. Justin*, as they celebrate their birthdays; and in beloved memory of *Fr. Elias*, by The McClatchey Family.

SEVEN-BRANCHED CANDLE: Offered: **(1)** in beloved memory of Parents, Grand & Great-Grandparents, *John & Elizabeth (Andrews) Spada*, who were married on May 5, 1940, by their Children (Barbara Skala and Family [husband, Buddy, son & wife, Andy & Jill, daughter & husband, Stephanie & Dennis, and their children, Brendan & Erin] and Tony & Marianne Spada and Family) ... **and ... (2)** for the health of *Elias, Rebecca, Marissa, Michael, Noah & Themselves* by Albert & Mary Jo Ghantous.

PRAYERS OF LITURGICAL REMEMBRANCE

Offered for the health of *Tony & Marianne Spada Family* by Tony & Marianne Spada: and in beloved memory of: **(1)** *William G. Joseph (+05/15/ 2004)* by The Joseph Family ... **and ... (2)** *Dr. Fred & Mary Alvanette (Shahade) Kennan, John Kennan & Alex Kennan* by Katherine (Kennan) Solomon.

***For The Living – “God Grant Them Many Years!”...and...
For The Departed – “May Their Memory Be Ever Eternal!”***

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- VARIATIONS & NOTES ON THE LITURGY -

FIRST ANTIPHON: (*Refrain: “Thru the intercessions of the Theotokos...”*)
“Shout with joy to God, all the earth; sing to His Name, give glory to His praises.” / *Refrain.* / “Say to God: How awesome are Thy works; let all the earth worship Thee, and sing to Thee. Let it sing a song to Thy Name, O Most High.” / *Refrain.* / “Glory & Now” ... **and ... Refrain.**

SECOND ANTIPHON: (*Refrain: “Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead, as we sing to Thee: Alleluia.”*)
“May God have mercy upon us, and bless us, and may He cause His face to shine upon us, and have mercy upon us.” / *Refrain.* / “That Thy way may be known upon earth, Thy Salvation among all nations; let the peoples give thanks to Thee, O God, let all the peoples give thanks to Thee.” / *Refrain.* / “May God bless us, and may all the ends of the earth fear Him.” / *Refrain.* / “Glory & Now” ... **and ... “O Only-Begotten Son and Word of God ...”**.

THIRD ANTIPHON: (*Verses & Troparion During The Little Entrance – Tone One*)
“Let God arise and let His enemies be scattered; and let those that hate Him flee from before His face.” / *Refrain - “Christ Is Risen!”* / “As smoke vanisheth, so let them vanish; as wax melteth before the fire.” / *Refrain.* / “So let sinners perish at the presence of God, and let the righteous be glad.” / *Refrain.* / “This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad therein.” / *Refrain.*

THE ENTRANCE HYMN OF PASCHA:

In the gathering places bless ye God the Lord, from the springs of Israel. Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead, who sing to Thee: Alleluia.

AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE:

TROPARION OF THOMAS SUNDAY: (*Tone Seven*)

While the tomb was sealed, Thou didst shine forth from it, O Life. While the doors were closed, Thou didst come in to Thy Disciples, O Christ God, Resurrection of all, renewing in us through them an upright spirit, according to the greatness of Thy mercy.

KONTAKION OF PASCHA: (*Tone Eight*)

Though Thou didst descend into the grave, O Immortal One, yet didst Thou destroy the power of Hades, and didst arise as victor, O Christ God, calling to the myrrh-bearing women, Rejoice, and giving peace unto Thine Apostles, O Thou Who dost grant resurrection to the fallen.

EPISTLE: Acts 5:12-20 (*Thomas Sunday*)

HOLY GOSPEL: John 20:19-31 (*Thomas Sunday*)

Concerning the “Kiss of Peace,” prior to the Nicene Creed, we encourage you to greet those around you with a bow of the head and your hands across your chest, saying: **“Christ is Risen!”**...the response being: **Truly He is Risen!”** In this way, we express: **(1)** our Joy that God has acted to restore our Communion with Him ... **and ... (2)** our Hope in the Resurrection from the Dead that is offered to us by our Lord’s own “trampling down death by death!” **God is With Us (“Emmanuel”)!**

MEGALYNARION FOR THOMAS SUNDAY (*Instead Of “It Is Truly Meet...”*):

(*Tone One*) O most radiant lamp, the Theotokos, the immeasurable honor, which is more exalted than all creatures, with praises do we magnify thee.

KOINONIKON (*Communion Hymn – Psalm 147:1*): (*Tone Eight*)

“Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise thy God, O Zion. Alleluia!”

INSTEAD OF “We Have Seen The True Light...”:

“Christ Is Risen...!” - **(Once)** - See “Troparion Of Pascha” Above.

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- THIS WEEK'S EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS -

(Church Office: Tuesday – Friday ... 9 AM – 2 PM)

+ Saturday, May 18 – GREAT VESPERS – 5 PM.

+ Sunday, May 19 – SUNDAY OF THE HOLY MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN (Commemoration of The Pious JOSEPH of Arimathea & Righteous NICODEMUS) – MATINS (Morning Prayers) @ 8:30 AM & DIVINE LITURGY @ 9:30 AM ... followed by Agape Fellowship ... and ...

THE HOLY SACRAMENTS OF BAPTISM, CHRISMATION & HOLY COMMUNION FOR NORA MARIE SHADID, daughter of Fr. Chris & Kh. Sophia Shadid @ St. Ignatius Chapel at The Antiochian Village Camp – 3 PM ... RSVP to Sophia @ 617-548-1543 ... OR ... smk1091@gmail.com. Thank You!

Please Note That As Is Our Tradition, The Royal Doors (The Beautiful Gate) & The Deacon's Doors Are to Remain Open Throughout Bright Week And Are Not Closed Until next Saturday's Great Vespers for Thomas Sunday ... (Verse 10 of The Stichera on Psalm 140:

"Into the gathering of the Disciples, while the doors were shut, Thou didst suddenly enter, O Jesus our Almighty God. And standing in their midst, Thou didst grant them peace, and filled them with a holy spirit, commanding them to tarry and not depart from Jerusalem until they were vested with power from above. Wherefore, O our Light, Resurrection, and Peace, we cry unto Thee: Glory to Thee.")

Also, Note That There Is To Be No Fasting on Wednesdays and Fridays From Pascha Until The Feast of The Ascension (Thursday, June 13) by Decree of The Holy Synod of The Church of Antioch (1997).

Lastly, Note That From Pascha to The Sunday of Pentecost (June 23) The Troparion, "O Heavenly King..." Is Not Sung ... and ... From Pascha to its Leave-Taking, Instead of: "Holy God...", "O Come, Let Us Worship & Fall Down..." in Matins, The Hours and Vespers; and "Glory to God in The Highest" Before the Matins Psalms; and, "We Have Seen The True Light..." in The Divine Liturgy, We Sing "Christ is Risen From The Dead..."

A BIRTHRIGHT "THANK YOU!"

Fr. Don is pleased to announce that our St. Mary Parish Family hosted a "Baby Shower" for the Birthright Organization, which supports & assists pregnant women & new mothers. This was chaired by our own Laura Slifko. Thanks to Laura, and all who offered their prayers & donations, we are grateful to God that we could gift Birthright with the supplies & monetary donations listed below.

Birthright wants to thank our St. Mary AOCC for our prayers, generosity & love. They are very grateful for the generous donations of:

- 620 individual diapers
- 43 packs of diaper wipes
- 37 newborn (4 oz) baby bottles
- 4 diaper bags
- 3 nursery/laundry baskets
- \$277.00 cash/checks

May God Bless them as they continue in their ministries!

Epistle

Great is our Lord, and great is His strength. Praise ye the Lord, for the Lord is good.

The Reading from the Acts of the Holy Apostles. (5:12-20)

In those days, many signs and wonders were done among the people by the hands of the apostles; and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch. None of the rest dared to join them, but the people magnified them. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and pallets, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the cities around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. But the chief priest rose up and all who were with him, that is, the sect of the Sadducees, and filled with jealousy they laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out and said: "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life."

Gospel

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (20:19-31)

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be to you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be to you. As the Father has sent me, even so, I send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in His side, I will not believe." Eight days later, His disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, "Peace be to you." Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see My hands; and put out your hand, and place it in My side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Thomas, you have believed because you have seen Me. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His Name.

May God Be With You!

Saint of the Day – May 12, 2024

SAINT EPIPHANIUS, BISHOP OF CYPRUS

Epiphanius was a Jew by birth, but, seeing the power of the Christian Faith, he was baptized along with his sister Callithrope. At the age of twenty-six, he was tonsured a monk in the Monastery of St. Hilarion. Later, he established a separate monastery, where he became famed throughout all of Palestine and Egypt because of his asceticism, spiritual wisdom and miracle-working. Fleeing from the glory of men, Epiphanius withdrew to Egypt. On the way, he met the great Paphnutius, who predicted that he would become bishop on the island of Cyprus. Indeed, by divine providence, after many years Epiphanius arrived at Cyprus. There he was unexpectedly chosen as bishop. At the age of sixty, he became the bishop of Salamis and, as such, governed the Church of God for fifty-five years. He lived a total of 115 years on this earth and then rested from this life, so as to live eternally in the Kingdom of Christ. Before his death, he was summoned to Constantinople by Emperor Arcadius and his wife Eudoxia to an assembly of bishops, which, according to the wish of the emperor and the empress, should have condemned St. John Chrysostom. Arriving in Constantinople, Epiphanius went directly to the palace of the emperor. The emperor and empress detained him for a long while trying to persuade him to declare himself against Chrysostom. The citizens and Chrysostom heard that Epiphanius had agreed with the emperor against Chrysostom. That is why Chrysostom wrote him a letter: "Brother Epiphanius, I heard that you advised the emperor that I should be exiled; know that you will never see your throne again." To this, Epiphanius replied: "O suffering John, withstand insults; know that you will never reach the place to which you are exiled." And both prophecies of these saints were quickly fulfilled. Not wanting to agree in any way with the emperor on the exile of Chrysostom, Epiphanius secretly boarded a ship and departed for Cyprus, but he died on the ship. The emperor banished Chrysostom to Armenia, but the saint died en route. St. Epiphanius reposed in the year 403 A.D. Among the many works of St. Epiphanius, the most famous is *The Medicine Chest [Panarion]*, in which eighty heresies are listed and refuted.

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THOSE IN SPECIAL NEED OF OUR PRAYERS: AMBER HILLS @ CAMBRIA CARE CENTER (Ebensburg, PA): *Mary Ann Unis-Asfar (#606)*; LAURELVIEW VILLAGE: *Rhoda (Nasser) Zdravecky (Vista – 913)*; HILLTOP HEIGHTS CARE CENTER (formerly "Laurelwood Care Ctr.): *Suzanne George (#37-W)*; HERITAGE RIDGE SENIOR LIVING (formerly "Lutheran Home"): *Elaine Heider (#34)*; QUALITY LIFE SERVICES – WESTMONT WOODS (formerly "Presbyterian Home"): *Emma (Nasser) Audey (#115-W) ... and ... IN TREATMENT, RECOVERING AND / OR "SHUT-IN AT HOME":* *Becky Azar; Larry Bertino; Carolyn Clark; Renee D'Ettoire; Michael & Patty Devich; Joanne George; John & Dalal George; Olga Hodge; Denise Khorey-Harriman; Matthew Makdad; Huda Martin, Donald McMillan; Anna Marie (Abraham) Rovanseck; Jane (Farrah) Salem and Sara Shahade.* **May God Be With All of Them & All of Those Who Are Ill and / or in Need!**

Can You Offer the Paschal Greeting in ... Italian?!?

Give it a try ...

"Cristo e` risorto!"

"E` veramente risorto!"

A MESSAGE FROM FR. DON: Khouria Janet, Fr. Christopher, Khouria Sophia, Luke, Nora, Dr. Stephen, Zayna, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your prayers, support & gifts during this Great Lent & Paschal Season. May God truly grant you His Joy & Peace (John 14:27) as we greet each other with:

Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

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Incrruptible but Touchable

The Lord's body that made its entrance to the disciples through closed doors was the same as that which issued before the eyes of people from the Virgin's closed womb at His birth.

Is it surprising that He who was now going to live forever made His entrance through closed doors after His resurrection, who on His coming in order to die made His appearance from the unopened womb of a virgin?

But because the faith of those who beheld it wavered concerning the body they could see, He showed them at once His hands and His side, offering them the body that He brought in through the closed doors to touch.

By this action He revealed two wonderful and, according to human reason, quite contradictory things. He showed them that after His resurrection His body was both incorruptible and yet could be touched ...

By showing us that it is incorruptible, He would urge us on toward our reward, and by offering it as touchable He would dispose us toward faith.

He manifested Himself as both incorruptible and touchable to show us that His body after His resurrection was of the same nature as ours but of a different sort of glory.

St. Gregory the Great

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